

A Little Penguin's view of quarantine



Clark 24/7 has been reaching out to members of the college community to learn how they're coping with, and adapting to, life during the COVID-19 pandemic. Here, we share an interview conducted by Dean of Student Affairs Cath Busha and Counseling and Health Center Professor Dr. Bevyn Rowland with Busha's 7-year-old son, Oliver. Busha and Rowland are both still working remotely from home, while Oliver is now completing second grade online.

"We appreciated this chance to talk with him about these issues as a check-in," Busha said. Their conversation reflects many of the emotions and logistics being experienced by members of the Clark College family—not just staff and faculty, but also the 25 percent of Clark students who have dependent children.

Busha & Rowland: Why have we been working from home and why have you been learning from home?

Oliver: Because of the COVID-19 going on. If we went to work and school, we could get sick and get other people sick, especially older people. and they could die.

B&R: How do you feel about COVID-19?

O: I feel 'hassed'—like happy and sad together. I'm happy because I get to have more time with my parents, and I'm sad because I don't get time with my friends. I only get time with my friends on Google Hangouts.

B&R: How has it been to be home with us?

O: Great! Because I get more time with my parents, which is great because my parents are some of the best parents you

could ask for, and I get to watch *Star Wars* movies.

B&R: What are some things you've done since we've all been working and learning from home together?

O: I've put on magic shows, I created an alarm system with a safe that I've turned into a time capsule and buried; I will open it in one month. I also camped on the trampoline and read *Mr. Wolf's Class* and *New Kid*. I've made apple hand pies, caramel corn, and soft pretzels. Also, some nights at 8 p.m. we howl to show support for first responders.

B&R: What are some frustrating things about being home?

O: That I don't get to see my friends. I also miss Pizza Day at school. Seesaw [an online learning tool used by elementary schools] can be hard. My teacher posts a bunch of things. I finish one, and then I have like six more to do. It can be tiring.

B&R: What advice do you have for other kids who are at home?

O: Stay home, stay safe, have fun.

B&R: What advice do you have for parents?

O: Stay home, stay safe, and spend as much time with your kids as you can.